

BRITISH CARDIAC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

With memories of Torquay fading, we are beginning to look forward to next year's meeting in Harrogate from 23 to 25 May. Council and the Programme Committee, chaired by Andrew Henderson, have already considered the changes for next year. There will be more emphasis on moderated poster presentations in suitable rooms and the number of simultaneous sessions will be reduced to a maximum of four, not including the nurses' and technicians' day and some paediatric cardiology sessions. It is recognised that this may lead to a higher rejection rate of abstracts submitted, but Council believes that this is the best way forward. As usual there will be two plenary sessions and two lectures—Council will choose the Paul Wood lecturer and the Junior Cardiac Club the Strickland Goodall lecturer. The submission date for abstracts is 1 December and submissions for the Young Research Workers Prize must be received by 1 November. Full details will be circulated to members, but others may call the Society on 071 383 3887 for the appropriate forms.

Waiting times for investigation and interventional treatment of heart disease

The Patient's Charter may soon give a guaranteed maximum waiting time for coronary artery bypass grafting and angioplasty. However, the cumulative waiting time for investigation and treatment is often much greater than this. The target will be real and meaningful only if both waiting times are addressed, and some purchasers are beginning to tackle this issue. Our aim in discussion with the National Health Service Management Executive will be to get both "waiting periods" incorporated into the Patient's Charter and for the waiting period to be extended to all forms of heart disease. Useful interim targets for maximum waiting times are 4 months for investigation and 8 months for intervention, giving a maximum cumulative waiting time of 12 months. It is important that we raise these issues with our purchasers. If waiting times for patients with heart disease are going to be compared with other waiting times, such as that for hip replacement, then the current comparison must be the cumulative waiting times.

Retirements from Council

Duncan Dymond has now finished his two year period as Honorary Secretary to the Cardiac Society, having been Assistant

Secretary for two years before that. We thank Duncan for all his contributions to the Society, and in particular the tremendous efforts he made towards the successful meetings in Wembley and Torquay. We also thank Stuart Cobbe and Keith Fox who have completed their four year periods on Council.

British Society for Cardiovascular Research

Peter Cummins writes: "This is the first contribution from the British Society for Cardiovascular Research to the Newsletter since the BSCR was approved as an affiliated group of the British Cardiac Society. The BSCR has almost 600 members, mainly experimental workers from the academic, industrial, and clinical communities, with a shared interest in research on the heart and vascular system. The BSCR holds two main meetings a year, each devoted to a major theme with free communications on any topic. In addition, several smaller more specialist workshops take place more frequently. The BSCR has a formal constitution, is a registered charity, and publishes a quarterly bulletin for members. It currently receives an educational grant from Rhone-Poulenc Rorer in addition to funds from the BCS and several charitable bodies. Membership is relatively inexpensive (approximately £15) and the BSCR would be delighted to see more members from the BCS to add to our current clinical numbers.

The granting of affiliated group status puts on a firm footing the informal links between members of the two societies that go back almost to the formation of the BSCR over 20 years ago. During that time very occasional joint sessions were held at the BCS annual meetings but we expect that this will now become a regular feature. The recent joint session in Torquay on "Preconditioning the myocardium" was particularly well attended and augurs well for the future. We will be looking to members of the BSCR, particularly our clinical members, to suggest topics and speakers for consideration for next year's annual BCS meeting.

In keeping with the BSCR's aim to forge wider links with the cardiovascular research community, a joint session was held recently with our sister society in France, the Groupe de Reflexion sur la Recherche Cardiovasculaire (GRRC). The sessions in Montpellier in April on "Endothelium and smooth muscle" were judged a great success and future joint sessions are being planned for the Autumn meeting in London in 1995. We expect that our Italian colleagues will also join in these sessions.

May I remind all members (and non-members) that much of the Winter meeting in Bristol on "Drugs and the heart" will be devoted to free communications. Abstracts will be considered on any topic and, if accepted, will be published in the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, which will

be available at the meeting. The deadline is 15 August and details are available from the Secretary, Dr S Coker."

British Association for Cardiac Rehabilitation

Hugh Bethell writes: "The British Association for Cardiac Rehabilitation is delighted to be affiliated to the British Cardiac Society and grateful for the use of the BCS boardroom for committee meetings. Our 221 members include cardiologists, physicians, general practitioners, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, exercise physiologists, and dietitians. Annual membership is only £25 (BACR, c/o Action Heart, Wellesley House, 117 Wellington Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1UB).

The BACR produces a quarterly, informative newsletter and a membership booklet; it runs an annual general meeting with scientific conference; it is working on producing guidelines for good practice; and it is planning to set up an education programme for cardiac rehabilitation.

This year's AGM will be held at Homerton College, Cambridge on Saturday 17 September. The morning session will include presentations on research and evaluation in cardiac rehabilitation and on the management of type A behaviour. There will be several short research papers. The afternoon will be used to present the BACR working party report on "Guidelines for clinical practice in cardiac rehabilitation" with workshops to discuss different aspects. The cost for the day is £30 for members and £40 for non-members. Please apply to Fiona Lough, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Medical Services, Box 155, Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, Cambridge CB2 2QQ."

News from Europe

Philip Poole-Wilson writes: "This year the European Society of Cardiology has awarded four research fellowships and six training fellowships. One research fellowship was awarded to Dr Wallbridge from Glasgow. He is going to undertake research with Professor Heusch in Germany. One research fellow and two training fellows are coming to the United Kingdom."

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NOTICES

The 1995 Annual Meeting of the **British Cardiac Society** will take place at the Conference Centre, Harrogate, West Yorkshire from 23 to 25 May.